

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 12, 2007. Claims 6 to 10, 16 to 20, 26 to 30 and 32 to 38 are pending in the application, of which Claims 6, 16, 26 and 32 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 6 to 10, 16 to 20, 26 to 30 and 32 to 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,495,561 (Holt) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,188,490 (Miyake). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 6 is directed to an information processing apparatus for having a printer driver which generates print data to be printed at a printing apparatus using drawing data output from an application. The apparatus includes entry means for entering information indicating the number of division via a setting screen to divide a physical page, in executing N-page printing in which drawing data of N pages ($N > 1$, N is an integer) is printed on the physical page which is a face of one print sheet; arranging means for dividing the physical page into N areas using the information indicating the number of division to divide the physical page and for arranging the drawing data of each page at each of N-divided areas of the physical page; first control means for controlling an arranging processing executed by the arranging means so that an internal margin between two of a plurality of drawing data arranged by the arranging means is larger than a print margin between the drawing data and an edge of the physical page; deciding means for deciding whether the first control means is executed based on the information indicating the number of division entered via the setting screen by the entry means; and generation means for generating the print data using an arranging result by the arranging means.

In contrast, Holt discloses a method for N-page printing that allows an application to use either a physical N-page printing arrangement or a printable region N-page printing arrangement. Miyake arguably discloses a user interface that allows a user to select between N-page printing based on printing a user-selected number of sheets per page or by printing a user-selected total number of pages, whereby the invention apparently disclosed in Miyake automatically calculates a number of sheets per page.

However, Holt and Miyake, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least the feature of a first controlling means as recited in Claim 6. The first controlling means controls arranging processing executed by the arranging means so that an internal margin between two of a plurality of drawing data arranged by the arranging means is larger than a print margin between the drawing data and an edge of the physical page. Such an output is shown in Fig. 21(c) of the present application.

In this regard, Fig. 14C of Holt also discloses an internal margin between two of a plurality of drawing data and a print margin between the drawing data and an edge of the physical page. However, in Holt, the internal margin and the print margin are the same size and different from the margins as shown Fig. 21(c) of the present application.

Furthermore, a printed sheet which is obtained under the control of the arranging processing by the first controlling means of the present invention has internal margins between two of the plurality of drawing data larger than the print margin between the drawing data and the edge of the physical page. Therefore, for example, each of the four sheets obtained by dividing the printed sheet in quarters as shown in Fig. 21(c) of the present application are attractively arranged because they all have margins equal in width on the four sides.

On the other hand, each of the four sheets obtained by dividing the printed sheet in quarters as shown in Fig. 14C of Holt are not as attractively arranged because they do not have margins equal in width on the four sides.

Applicants have reviewed Miyake and submit that nothing in Miyake supplies that which is lacking in Holt. Specifically, Miyake disclose that, in order to obtain a printed sheet having the margins equal in width on the four sides, a user has to adjust the page coordinate by setting margins and gaps, which simply adds to the user's burden.

Applicants also submit that Holt and Miyake, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest a deciding means as recited in Claim 6. In Claim 6, the previously discussed first controlling means enables obtaining, by dividing, a printed sheet with margins equal in width on the four sides. However, using the first controlling means results in a reduced-size drawing data in order to obtain larger internal margins. That is, size of the drawing depends on the number of divisions using the first controlling means or not.

In this regard, the deciding means of Claim 6 decides whether or not the first controlling means is to be executed based on the information indicating the number of divisions entered via the setting screen by the entry means. For example, when selecting "4 pages in 1 sheet" for the printing layout, the user can obtain a printed sheet which is already considered in the number of divisions by the deciding means, even if the user does not know that they should use the first controlling means.

In contrast, Holt discloses that the page coordinates depend on the margin and gap setting specified by the application. As in the present invention, Holt decides the page coordinate based on the set value, but Holt does not describe "deciding whether or not the first controlling is executed based on the information indicating the number of division entered via the setting

screen"as featured in Claim 6. Therefore, in Holt, the user is required to have a high degree of knowledge and experience for the layout processing in order to decide, depending on the number of divisions, that the internal margin between two of a plurality of drawing data should be larger than the print margin between the drawing data and the physical data.

In that regard, the deciding means in Claim 6 of the present invention enables a user to easily perform the layout processing by considering the number of divisions for the user without the user having to have a high degree of knowledge and experience in layout processing.

In light of these deficiencies in Holt and Miyake, Applicants submit that Claim 6 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Claims 16, 26 and 32 are directed to a method, a computer program stored on a computer-readable medium and a computer-readable medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 6. As such, Applicants submit that Claims 16, 26 and 32 are also in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No additional claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 50-3939.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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